

# FORM C – OBJECT

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

22/50	Boston North	E	912
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village): East Lexington

## Photograph



Address or Location: 755 Massachusetts Avenue

Name: Charles Follen Marker

Ownership:  Public  Private

Type of Object (check one):

- |                                            |                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> statue            | <input type="checkbox"/> monument          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bust              | <input type="checkbox"/> milestone         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group composition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious shrine  | <input type="checkbox"/> boundary marker   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)   |                                            |

Date of Construction: 1915

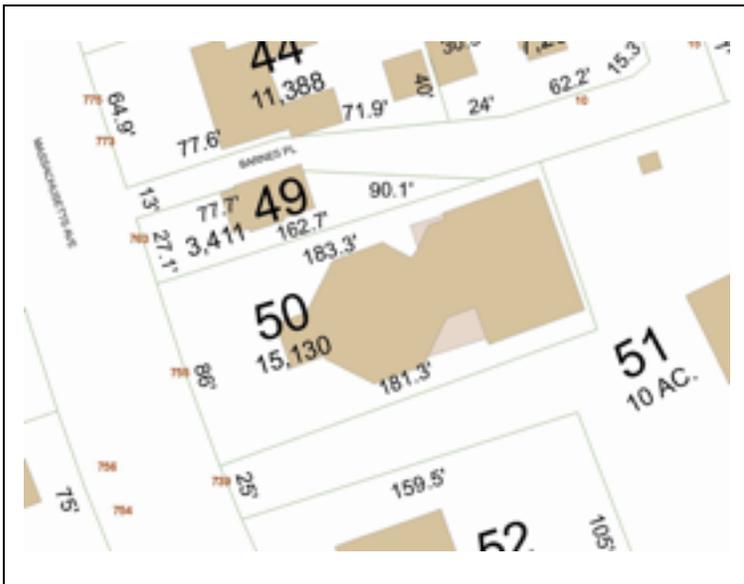
Source: on marker

Designer/Sculptor: unknown

Materials: granite, bronze

Alterations (with dates):  
none

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



Condition: good

Moved:  no  yes Date

Acreage: NA

Setting: front lawn of Follen Community Church

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year): Sept. 2009

# INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

755 Mass. Ave.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

E

912

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## DESIGN ASSESSMENT

*Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

The Charles Follen Marker consists of a rough granite tablet on which is mounted a bronze tablet with eared corners and raised letters.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.*

Rev. Charles Follen was a German poet and patriot who later moved to the U.S. and became the first professor of German at Harvard University, a Unitarian minister and a radical abolitionist. Locally, Rev. Follen was a central force in the East Village's efforts to build its own church building separate from the main village. He designed what was later known as the Follen Community Church. He intended the octagonal structure to allow for an open community and on in which the congregation was closer to the pulpit. The building was completed in 1840. Rev. Follen perished in a steamboat fire on his way to the dedication. Unaware of his fate, the parishioners dedicated the building without him. This monument was erected in 1915.

## ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

CHARLES FOLLEN  
BORN IN HESSE – DARMSTADT  
SEPTEMBER 4 1796  
A FEARLESS ADVOCATE  
OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE  
EXILED FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE  
HE SOUGHT IN AMERICA THE FREEDOM  
DENIED HIM IN THE OLD WORLD  
DISTINGUISHED  
FOR RICH AND VARIED LEARNING  
FOR UNCOMPROMISING DEVOTION TO  
THE CAUSE OF THE OPPRESSED  
AND ENSLAVED AND FOR THE SIMPLICITY  
AND INTEGRITY OF HIS CHARACTER  
HE ORGANIZED IN THIS TOWN  
THE FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
AND BECAME ITS FIRST PASTOR  
DESIGNED THE OCTAGON MEETING HOUSE  
HERE ERECTED AND ON HIS WAY TO  
ITS DEDICATION WAS LOST IN THE  
BURNING OF THE STEAMBOAT  
“LEXINGTON”  
ON LONG ISLAND SOUND  
JANUARY 13 1840

THIS TABLET ERECTED  
1915

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LEXINGTON

755 Mass. Ave.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington from its first settlement to 1868* (Revised and Continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913, vol. 2, p. 544.

Kollen, Richard. *Lexington: From Liberty's Birthplace to Progressive Suburb*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004.

Munroe, James P. "Charles Follen", Read on March 12, 1891 and contained in the *Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society*, vol. III. Lexington: Lexington Historical Society, 1905.